Message Text

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O 241300Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5826

UNCLAS PANAMA 1245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN, ELAB

SUBJECT: TORRIJOS-MONDALE LETTER

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM GENERAL TORRIJOS TO VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE, DATED FEBRUARY 9. LETTER ARRIVED UNDER COVER OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE #DM-049, DATED FEBRUARY 17.

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: MR. VICE-PRESIDENT: THE PANAMANIAN UNION LEADER, MR. DEAN BUTCHER, HAD THE GOOD JUDGMENT TO FORWARD TO ME THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT YOU RECENTLY MADE BEFORE THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION, WHICH I TRANSCRIBE WITH SATISFACTION:

(NON-TRANSLATION-COPIED IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM)

BEGIN UNDERLINE: "COMMENTS MADE BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE BEFORE AFL CIO CONVENTION TODAY: END UNDERLINE: QUOTE... AND LET US RATIFY THOSE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. I AM GOING TO VOTE, THE PRESIDENT IS GOING TO VOTE FOR THE SUPPORT THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAS GIVEN TO THOSE TREATIES. MIND YOU EVERY ONE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF OF YOUR SERVICES IN THIS COUNTRY IS ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE RATIFICATION OF THOSE TREATIES BECAUSE THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE SECURITY AND NATIONAL INTEREST OF THIS COUNTRY ARE BETTER SERVED BY THE RATIFICATION OF THOSE TREATIES THAN BY LEAVING THE SITUATION AS IT IS TODAY."
YOUR WORDS PLEASE ME GREATLY, AS THEY CLEARLY VERIFY THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS EXERCISING ITS
BEST EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH ITS PROMISE TO SEEK AND

OBTAIN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION SO THAT THE SENATE WILL FULLY RATIFY THE TREATIES SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 7TH OF LAST YEAR.

I AGREE WITH YOU WHEN YOU AFFIRM THAT THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES PROTECT THE SECURITY AND NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. IN REALITY, THESE TREATIES GUARANTEE THE PERMANENT INTERESTS OF PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE PERMANENT INTEREST IS BASED IN HAVING THE ASSURANCE OF NON-DISCRIMINATE USE OF THE PANAMA CANAL AND WITH REASONABLE TOLL CHARGES. FOR PANAMA, THE PERMANENT INTEREST CONSISTS IN COMPLETING ITS PROCESS OF INDEPENDENCE WITH THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN ITS TERRITORY, THE RESTITUTION OF ITS TERRITORY KNOWN AS THE PANAMA CANAL TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, AND TO CONVERT THE CANAL INTO AN INSTRUMENT FOR ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE TREATIES WHICH YOU AND I ADVOCATE CONSECRATE THOSE HIGH INTERESTS. WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES THE PANAMA CANAL WILL BE SURROUNDED WITH THE PANAMANIAN CORD OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH IS THE BEST DEFENSE OF THAT ROUTE OF CONCERN TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THE TESTIMONY OF MY GREATES APPRECIATION, AND TO WISH BOTH YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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AND YOUR WORTHY WIFE GREATER SUCCESS IN YOUR ALREADY BRILLIANT PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LIFE.
(ORIGINAL SIGNED) OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA, GENERAL CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY WILL POUCH ORIGINAL LETTER. JORDEN

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Subject: TORRIJOS-MONDALE LETTER

TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, PPDC, PN, AFL-CIO, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)

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